

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 /017 W

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R 250650Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1837

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 6910

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP MY

SUBJ: TIMBER INDUSTRIES TRADE MISSION

REF: STATE 276543

1. COMMATT JUST RETURNED FROM EXTENSIVE VISIT TO EAST MALAYSIA, WHERE, AMONG OTHER ITEMS, QUESTION OF BEST SITES FOR TRADE MISSION WAS DISCUSSED WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TIMBER BUSINESS REPS. AS RESULT, EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT SANDAKAN BE RETAINED BUT THAT SIBU BE SUBSTITUTED FOR KUCHING AS SARAWAK STOP. KUCHING IS BASICALLY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER WHILE SIBU HAS MOST DYNAMIC AND ADVANCED COLLECTION OF SAWMILLS AND MOLDING MILLS IN EAST MALAYSIA. CLEARLY, NEAR TERM SALES PROSPECTS ARE BETTER IN SIBU THAN AT ANY OTHER EAST MALAYSIAN LOCATION.

2. EMBASSY DOES BELIEVE, HOWEVER THAT SHORT STOPOVER OF FEW HOURS IN KUCHING EN ROUTE TO KUALA LUMPUR FROM SIBU WOULD BE OF VALUE. THIS BECAUSE, IN LONGER TERM, MUCH OF TIMBER DEVELOPMENT IN SARAWAK WILL BE IN FORM OF JOINT VENTURES WITH VARIOUS AGENCIES OF SARAWAK STATE GOVERNMENT. ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN THIS REGARD ARE THE SARAWAK TIMBER INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CORP. AND SARAWAK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.

3. WITH THIS IN MIND, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT
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MISSION PLANNERS CONSIDER FOLLOWING AS WORKING

ITINERARY:

DATE	PLACE	LOCAL TIME	FLIGHT NO
2/29	LV: MANILA	1515	MH 864
	AR: KOTA KINABALU (KK)	1655	
3/1	LV: KK	0800	MH 211
	AR: SANDAKAN	0850	
3/2	LV: SANDAKAN	0935	MH 216
	AR: KK	1025	
	LV: KK	1045	MH 246
	AR: SIBU	1310	
3/3	LV: SIBU	1325	MH 246
	AR: KUCHING	1405	
	LV: KUCHING	1900	MH 682
	AR: KUALA LUMPUR	2205	

4. BECAUSE OF GENERAL LACK OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, FACILITIES (REFTEL REQUEST FOR "FIRST CLASS HOTELS" GREATLY OVERESTIMATES REALITIES MISSION WILL ENCOUNTER) AND LARGE DISTANCE FROM KUALA LUMPUR, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT COMMERCE CONSIDER FUNDING TRAVEL WITH TRADE MISSION IN EAST MALAYSIA FOR COMMATT AND YAP KIM SWEE, EMBASSY'S SENIOR COMMERCIAL ADVISOR. WE BELIEVE THEY COULD GREATLY ASSIST MISSION BUT DO NOT FEEL THAT EMBASSY'S TRAVEL BUDGET CAN BEAR COST OF TRIP. PLEASE ADVISE.

5. BASED ON ABOVE ITINERARY, EMBASSY PROCEEDING TO MAKE TENTATIVE RESERVATIONS AT HOTELS IN KOTA KINABALU, SANDAKAN, SIBU, KUCHING AND KUALA LUMPUR. AS REQUESTED, WE HAVE ALSO BEGUN LIST BUILDING.

UNDERHILL

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